

Questions connected with public health have lately received an amount of despatch, attention, publicised by oratorical displays of a slightly sensational nature, in which we discern a tendency to envelope the main points of the whole question in a mist of obscurity, all sorts of side-issues. A latent anxiety to amend the Building-Ordinance seems to have taken advantage of the engrossing interest which always attaches to questions of public health; and thus the alarm trumpet has been sounded, and the air has been filled with plaintive forebodings as to what may be in store for us in the dim future with regard to the health of the Colonies. It is certainly well to look ahead, and

It is desirable to be prepared at all times for the worst, on the principle that prevention is better than cure. But it is also well to avoid all needless anxieties, to look our troubles squarely in the face, to keep steadily in mind where the source of the mischief really lies, and not to run into any extremes one way or the other. It is an affliction for us what has really caused the evil anguishes of our sanitary future which have been put forward with such dramatic emphasis. The last published report of the Colonial Surgeon, favourable as far as the general health of the Colony is concerned, was not quoted, though an old report, its referring to circumstances which have long since undergone considerable alterations was made use of. The Colonial Surgeon's report for 1896 has not been published yet, but, so far as general knowledge of our sanitary condition goes, it may be confidently expected that his report concerning the general health of the British and Foreign community of this Colony will be even more favourable than that of the preceding year. There has, indeed, been a good deal of fever in a narrow circumscribed area where building operations have simultaneously been going on for a long time, but the general health of Europeans, both resident and non-resident, has on the whole been fairly good. Among the troops and on board ships in harbour there has been, so far as we know, a steady improvement of sanitary conditions. In fact, so far as the health of the European, both civil and military or naval, population is concerned, there has been little if anything in the near or far past to warrant the gloomy forebodings of our sanitary augurs. It is a significant fact that life insurance agencies have of late reduced the ex-acting rates formerly charged in this part of the world and assimilated their rates to those in vogue in Europe.

It would seem therefore that the whole of the complaint raised as regards the health of the Colony must have its root in our Chinese population. But even the Chinese people have been singularly free from epidemic outbreaks of disease of local origin. The spasmodic appearance of cholera, some two years ago, among the troops and partly among the Chinese, was so obscure in its origin and character, and so shortlived, that it serves rather to indicate that there is, at present at any rate, no congenial soil for the rapid development and propagation of malignant cholera in the Colony. There has never been among the Chinese residents of Hongkong any excessive local prevalence of epidemic diseases. The Chinese are on the whole a healthy race. In that part of the town where they are crowded together to a dangerous extent, the ground is hilly, the streets are mostly covered by impenetrable chunnam, and, faulty as the drainage may be, there is a certain amount of drainage which is ordinarily effective enough unless there should be long continued drought. Deficient indeed is their domestic ventilation, and overcrowded are their sleeping apartments, but the undoubted evil connected therewith is somewhat mitigated by the consideration that most of the labouring classes spend the whole day in the open air, that even artisans and shopkeepers have their workshops and business premises widely open all day, and that the dread of night air, with its sudden alternations of temperature so peculiar to South-China, which prompts the Chinese to shut themselves up so closely at night, less a certain amount of reasonable foundation. It must also be considered that there is here an almost total absence of those health-destroying industries, like mining, cutlery, pottery, flax-working, cotton and wool manufacture, straw-plaiting, glove-making, silk-working and so forth, which in England compel hundreds of thousands to work day by day in artificially created atmospheres, more or less fouled with the breath of the workers and the effluvia of their materials, or at certain periods with the products of imperfect combustion of gas, or with the dust and dirt of their industry, or surcharged with moisture and highly heated. With the exception of a few hundreds of metal workers and the employees of one establishment which manufactures vermilion, the working classes of Hongkong conduct their daily avocations under sanitary conditions far more favourable than the majority of workmen in England. Privation, which is about the most active agency concerned in bringing about disease and degeneration, and which is the great source of infantile mortality, is comparatively less common among the poorer classes of Hongkong than among the corresponding strata of the population of a large English town.

Then where does the source of all the aversive apprehensions of an insupportable future in the store for Hongkong lie? We are by no means trying to prove that these apprehensions have no foundation at all. We share them to a certain extent. But we are inclined to think that the real point of danger lies not so much in architectural conditions or in deficiencies of ventilation, nor even so much in overcrowding, as in a direction which is far less easy to reach, if it can be reached at all by legislative enactments.

minely, in a want of personal cleanliness, in the filthy habits of the individual Chinese. We have looked through many annual reports of our worthy Colonial Surgeon, who is certainly most outspoken and unapologetic in his criticisms of the sanitary conditions under which the Chinese people of this Colony live, but on making a careful analysis of all the charges which he substantiates against them, we invariably find the ultimate gravamen of his charges to be personal uncleanness. The daily personal application of soap and water among the individuals constituting a nation is the real backbone of its sanitation, as it is the true test of its civilization. The man who has learned to keep his body clean requires no legislative compulsion or police surveillance to make him keep his house and surroundings in a sound sanitary condition. But, on the other hand, if a man cannot be taught habits of personal cleanliness, it will be a hard task, if not an impossible one, for legislative assemblies composed of the wisest heads, or for executive constables armed with the hardest of muscarcous, to teach that man to keep his house or backyard free from fetid decomposing refuse-matter. If the Chinese could be taught that saying,—“*he it JOHNS WEBSTER's invention or borrowed from the ancient Jewish Mishna,—which is an essential ingredient in every Englishman's creed,—viz., that cleanliness is next to godliness, the problem of the sanitation of Hongkong would easily be solved.*”

The home Government having given their assent to the proposed alterations in the Opium Bill the measure will be brought before the Legislative Council this afternoon (23rd May) for second reading. It will be remembered that when the Bill was introduced sundry exceptions were taken to it on the part of those interested in the opium trade. The most important of these was that with regard to the prohibition of dealings in quantities of less than one *sat*. It was argued that there was an extensive legitimate trade done in quantities of less than one *sat* for export to the mainland which would be entirely destroyed by this provision. To this it was replied that the trade in question was virtually done away with by the agreement under the Additional Clause of the Cession Convention, by which *lekin* is to be collected together with their import duty. The dealers, however, maintained that a large trade carried on in junk and unfumigated by the suspicion of smuggling would be transferred from Hongkong if the prohibition of dealings in small balls or

small quantities were maintained. The Government was naturally anxious to interfere with legitimate trade as little as possible in the carrying out of the agreement with China, and on an alternative scheme being suggested by the Hon. C. P. CHATER, it was at once forwarded to the Chinese Government for their consideration. It was accepted by them on trial, and it has now received the sanction of the authorities in Downing street. It has consequently been embodied in the Bill, which will presumably pass without further opposition unto the principle. The effect of the alterations which have been made is that sales of less than one catty will be permitted in the colony provided that such quantities are not less than one ball of Bengal opium or three catties of Malwa, Persian, or Turkish opium, the purchase to be accompanied by a certificate specifying the vessel by which they are to be exported. If it should be found that, notwithstanding the precaution of having the ship by which export is to be made specified in the certificate, smuggling still goes on, the Chinese will naturally ask for a revision of the Ordinance on the basis of the original agreement. We hope the necessity for this will not arise. Extreme vigilance, however, will have to be observed by the Excise officers to prevent smuggling. It would be a simple matter for a man representing himself as a travelling trader to purchase a ball of opium alleging that it was to be exported by a certain vessel; but after the certificate has been given both the purchaser and the opium are lost to view. It may be discovered when the vessel is leaving that she has not opium on her manifest corresponding with the quantity for which certificates have been granted, but by that time the missing quantity may have been surreptitiously conveyed into Chinese territory either for the purpose of being sold there without payment of *kakun* or of being prepared and smuggled back into Hongkong for the purpose of being sold here in competition with the Opium Farmer's drug. It also affords to the native employes on coasting steamers the opportunity of buying single balls of opium with the intention of smuggling it into the Treaty Ports, making fraudulent representations at the time of purchase as to the vessel by which it is to be exported. On the other hand heavy penalties are provided (or are presumably intended to be provided) for frauds of this description. But on this point some amendments will have to be made in the Bill in Committee. It is no made an offence, for instance, to be found in possession of a ball of opium after the departure of the vessel by which it had been prepared for export, although such possession would raise the presumption that it was intended to deal with it otherwise. As the Bill stands at present it would be a good defence to say it was intended to ship the opium by the vessel named on a subsequent voyage. This, however, is a matter of detail, and of a practical working it will probably be found that the Bill will effectually prevent any smuggling, or at all events reduce it to next to nothing, as penalties are provided for giving false particulars, and the accounts to be kept will at once disclose any deficiency or deviation, which will set the excise officers on the alert. But there is another point, which may turn out to be of

none importance to the Chinese agents who have been accustomed to export both in whole chests and in smaller quantities. As the Bill stands at present the holder of a chest may break it up and sell it in single balls, issuing certificates that the balls are to be exported by the vessel named by the purchasers. Will the holder of a chest be at liberty to issue certificates to himself and export it in small quantities to his customers or to his own branch establishments on the mainland? If he is allowed to sell it to others for export, why should he not be allowed to export it himself? But the form of the certificate is that the balls are sold to some one else for export. It seems to us therefore that sections 4, 5, and 6 require a little amplification to completely cover the contingencies likely to arise. Speaking broadly the colony is to be congratulated on the settlement which has been arrived at, which will in the main meet the views of the parties immediately interested in the trade.

An article in the *China Overland Trade Report* throws out the idea that the revision of the Treaties with Japan will be followed by a demand on the part of China for a like revision in her case. That such a demand will be preferred sooner or later there can be no doubt, but it will be long before the Western powers will be found ready to surrender their existing rights. Not that exterritoriality is in itself an advantage to those who enjoy it; on the contrary it is an evil to be got rid of as soon as possible; and all parties will rejoice when China has made such an advance in the adoption of modern ideas and the administration of justice that the exterritorial rights of European powers may be safely surrendered. But China does not advance with leaps and bounds like her more sprightly neighbour, and she has scarcely yet entered on the path along which Japan has been hurrying at such a rapid rate for years past. Consequently the time is not ripe yet for seriously entering on the subject, though the *Martins* Quæso has sounded a note of warning in his recent paper. It is essential to the safety of foreigners in China and the protection of their interests that, until many radical changes have taken place which will require years for their accomplishment, exterritoriality should be maintained.

attended with disadvantages, not only from a national point of view but also as regards the individual. One of the principal of these is the multiplicity of jurisdictions, which places serious obstacles in the way of joint trading ventures on the part of persons of diverse nationalities. The insecurity of the interests of the shareholders in public companies established at Shanghai for a long time exercised a prejudicial effect on the value of the different stocks, but this has now been cured in many cases by having the companies registered, mostly in Hongkong, but in some cases in England. In cases of partnership between individuals the difficulties which arise from the cause stated are still sometimes very plainly felt. A case in point is reported from Nanchang. The correspondent of the *N. Y. C. Daily News*, on whose account we are dependent for the facts, terms it "an anomaly in its most virulent form." A Pilot Company was created with ten members. Two of the members died and their creditors seized the value of

right in the property of the Company is denied by the others, who are Americans, Swedes, and Danes. He accordingly brings an action in the United States Court against four members of the Company who are Americans and attaches the vessel which constitutes the property of the Company. The

attachment is removed by the Danish Consul (who is also the British Consul) on the application of a Danish subject one of the shareholders in the property, on the ground that his 4th share cannot be held as security to pay what may be due by others, so in order to release his 4th share, the shares of the four defendants are released also. The British Consul, we are told, says "it is a mysterious case." It certainly discloses a state of things which ought not to be allowed to exist, if it can be removed without incurring greater evils. The point of the case is that the administration of justice is absolutely obstructed by the conflict of jurisdictions. The plaintiff may proceed with his claim in the various Courts exercising jurisdiction over the defendants, and may perhaps obtain conflicting decisions; but even if he secures judgment in all, the *rem* from which his claim is to be satisfied appears to be out of reach of one and all of the courts. Would it be absolutely impossible to find a remedy for this state of affairs? The co-operative system has been carried a long way by the different Treaty Powers in China: would it not be feasible to carry it to the length of having an agreement fixing upon some mode of trial in cases in which persons of several different nationalities are concerned? The question is a difficult one, but the lawyer who says there is no wrong without a remedy, where there is the remedy to be found for the wrong which undoubtedly exists in the Newchwang case? The abolition of extritoriality in Japan will certainly have the advantage of relieving foreign residents in that country from the loss and injustice which the existence of various jurisdictions must always render possible.

The *Times* recently stated that the Currency Commission had made up its mind as to the nature of its report and that the preponderance

the *status quo*. This statement has been authoritatively contradicted. But whatever may be the opinion of the Currency Commission, it is certain that the opinion of the public is veering more and more in favour of the rehabilitation of silver. The bimetallicists have had an uphill battle to fight, but the powerful arguments they have been able to advance have carried conviction right and left. They may not be able to convince the Currency Commission, but the report of that body will by no means settle the question.

the Commission will simply be intensified. As the *World* remarks, "Such a verdict would assuredly cause a further disastrous fall in the price of silver. Manchester and the agricultural interests would at once suffer so greatly that, with the enlightenment they now receive on the subject, there would arise such an outcry throughout the country that in hot haste a clean sweep would be made of all those official obstructionists who at present so effectually block the way to an unimpeded, unhindered solution of the

unprejudiced "English" socialist, and the "curse problem." That the question has taken a firm hold on the minds of the agricultural classes may be gathered from the report of a meeting of Leicestershire farmers reproduced in our mail news. Farmers are fond of the old ways, and will not depart from them except under the influence of strong conviction. When the Agricultural Societies of the United Kingdom actively take up bimetallicism the solution is not far off, for the fact plainly shows in which direction the force of public opinion tends. As to the effect of the demonstration of silver on the manufacturing interests, an article from an Indian contemporary which we reproduce today brings it into view very prominently. The Indian trade in cotton goods exported to Hongkong

in the case of yarns shows a decline and in other branches not a tithe of the increase that has taken place in India. And what is

the case? Our contemporary says "The fact is that there is one all important consideration that under existing circumstances must weigh greatly in favour of India. Our trade with China is not, like the English trade, constantly liable to drops and changes in prices owing to fluctuations in the relative value of gold and silver. The circumstance that both India and China have a silver currency gives a fixity to commercial dealings that can never be attained with Europe; under the present conditions of exchange. Any variation in the value of the silver dollar must upset all the calculations of the Manchester seller or the Shanghai purchaser, and may do away with one or other of their profits. The fact that the rupee rises and falls with the dollar on a single purpose, this element of speculation

an apparent gain to India. But the gain is more than counterbalanced by losses in other directions. India's finances have been thoroughly disorganised by the fall in the value of silver; her debt has been increased, and the consequent burden of taxation has become heavier. Fluctuations in exchange are like gambling; fortunes may be lost or won by them, but the nation never creates wealth, though they may lead to its dissipation; just as gambling does by withdrawing capital from genuinely remunerative channels into speculative ones.

**THE OPIUM BILL.**

The following summons was issued to Members of the Legislative Council on Saturday—

Hongkong, 20th May, 1897.

The Officer Administering the Government having received a telegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies approving of the proposals in connection with the Opium Bill, the Clerk of Councils has received His Excellency's Commands to summon a meeting of the Legislative Council for Monday, the 23rd instant.

Second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance for the better regulating of the trade in opium.  
A copy of the amended Bill is forwarded herewith.

A. SEYU, Clerk of Comella.

The principal differences between the original Bill and the amended Bill are: the following: 1.—The original Bill provided that the holder of a license should import or export opium in quantities less than one chest, and that no person except the Opium Farmer should have in his possession quantities less than one chest. This argument was stopped when it called for the free trade, that is, the sale of single balls for export, and an alternative scheme was suggested, which is embodied in clauses 4, 5, 6, and 7, which are as follows:—

4.—It shall be lawful for the Colonial Treasurer, on such conditions as may be approved by the Governor in Council, to license any person to import or export quantities less than one chest, and no person except the holder of such license shall be permitted to sell quantities less than one chest. The purchase, sale or barter of quantities less than one ball of Benger shall be lawful.

optum is hereby forbidden.

It shall be the duty of holders of licenses to take care to see that the optum sold by them is of the same quality as that in less than one chest, a certificate in the following form:-

Date, 188 .

No. .

Sold this day to .

to be exported by him to .

per ship .

This certificate shall not be valid after one month of the date of issue.

Chop. .

6.-No person except the Optum Farmer or the licensed retail dealer shall have in his possession under his custody or control, optum in quantities less than one chest without a certificate of purchase from the Government, nor be able to show to the satisfaction of a Magistrate:-

(A)-That the said optum is covered by a certificate of purchase from the Government.

(B)-That he has received it under an official export permit.

Provided always that it shall be the duty of the Government or of the officer empowered issuing export permits to grant or withhold the same, and that this section shall not apply to an optum exceeding two taels carried by a certificate of the importer.

7.-It shall be the duty of the Licensee to keep a record of the quantities of opium sold by him, and to furnish the same to the Governor ~~may~~ from time to time ordered.

The Chinese Government assented to the same, subject on the condition that the export of quantities of less than one chest should be allowed only by junk or the Canton river steamers. This condition is not expressly contained in the Ordinances, it is presumably covered by the terms of the above article of section 5, and it shall be in the absolute discretion of the officer charged with issuing export permits to grant or withhold the same. The same provision

point of contention with references to the original Bill. It is provided that the prohibition of the possession of quantities less than one catty without a license shall not apply to samples not exceeding two taels covered by a certificate of the importer. By section 8 a penalty not exceeding \$500 is imposed on licensees for breach of the conditions of their license in case it may not be deemed advisable to proceed for the full penalty under the licensees' bond.

The other principal alterations in the Bill are that the power of search is transferred from the Opium Farmer to the Harbour Master, and that Hongkong special licensed fishing boats are exempted from the clause which abolishes the granting of special permits or night clearance to junks.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on the 23rd inst. There were present :—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE ACTING GOVERNOR  
MAJOR-GENERAL CAMERON.  
HEN. J. RUSSELL, Acting Chief Justice.  
HEN. F. STEWART, Acting Colonial Secretary.  
HON. E. J. KEEFE, Acting Attorney-General.  
HON. A. LISTER, Colonial Treasurer.  
HON. G. F. FRASER, Harbour Master.  
HON. WONG SHENG.  
HON. A. P. MACEWEN.  
HON. J. BELL-IRVING.  
HON. C. P. CHATER.

Mr. A. SETH, Clerk of Councils.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed with amendment.

FINANCE.

Minutes by his Excellency the Governor were laid on the table recommending the Council to vote the sum of \$600 to be distributed among the original owners of cultivated lands at Little Hongkong, by way of compensation for loss sustained by them by the resurvey of 7,700 acres of the ground which was included in the large plot at Deep Bay recently sold. His Excellency, although not recognising the right of these original holders to any compensation, thought that such a grant of gratuities of one and a half per cent. on the purchase price might be granted and charged against the premium on land sales.

The minute was then referred to the Finance Committee.

A vote of \$150, recommended by the Finance Committee for a press for keeping the records of the Council, was carried.

The Acting Colonial Secretary laid on the table the Report of the Director of the Observatory for 1886, and some correspondence with the Crown Agents regarding the Government Loan.

THE OPIUM BILL.

HIS EXCELLENCY—In now asking the Acting Attorney-General to move the second reading of the Opium Ordinance. I think it may perhaps, be necessary to explain, with regard to the first clause, that the prohibition of the Chinese Government, as they were, perhaps, not sufficiently explained in the telegram.

To sum up the matter as briefly as possible, the limitations that they wish to be imposed on the quantity of opium which may be imported are less quantities than the present amount. I think, that these smaller quantities can be supported to Canton by river steamer, or by a small steamship, and that the bulk of the opium may be sent by junk to any port in China. Canton and all the other ports, but not by steamer to any port except Canton. I think it is necessary, perhaps, to offer that explanation. If Bill is passed, the Government will be enabled to prohibit amended classes which we think will satisfy the requirements of the Colony, as regards the counter-proposals that were made. I think my hon. friend before me wishes to know whether I have before me proposed

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg  
Sir, to renew my motion for the second reading  
of a Bill entitled an Ordinance for the better re-  
gulating of the trade in opium. It will be the  
remembrance of all the members of the  
Council that after I had made my original mo-  
tion, some proposals were handed in to the  
Government against the Bill, and the propos-  
als were accepted by the Chinese Government, and  
they have been mainly accepted. And there-  
fore now more than we proceed with the Bill.  
I can inform hon. members that if this Bill is re-  
ad a second time as it stands before the Council,  
the Government is ready to make certain  
amendments which I believe will meet all the  
objections which have been made, as those  
amendments have been drafted from proposals

which were made to us by an Hon. Member of this Council, which were accepted by the Council for the petitioners, and accepted also by the Chamber of Commerce. The principal modifications are contained in the revised Bill which I caused to be printed and circulated in order that members of Council could see exactly what they were and come prepared to discuss them. The principal amendment is, of course, made in clause 4 of the original Bill, which runs as follows:—“No person except the Opium Farmer shall have in his possession or under his custody or control Opium in quantities less than one chee.” Well, we propose that it shall

Council, to grant licences for the sale of opium in quantities less than one chest, and no persons except the holders of such licences shall be permitted to sell opium in quantities less than one chest.

[illegible]

two tacks covered by a certificate of the Importers' Licencees are to keep a register of all particulars of purchase and sale in such form as the Governor-General may direct. There is no direct tax on another chance which has been made in clause 14, which gave to the Opium Farmer the right of search. That right has been taken away from him and is now, rested on the Commissioner. There are some amendments and some minor changes which as I have already said meet the objections which have been made to the original Bill.

Hon. G. P. CRANFORD—Sir, as have been already observed to oppose the second reading of this Bill, I think it will not be out of place, if I say a few words as to the Ordinance and its amended form. As far as I have been able to learn, in the short time it has been in our hands, I think it is a very good Bill. I think we have no doubt will be allowed when we go to the Committee. I may also take this opportunity of stating that I had the honour of being consulted when the Commission was sitting in the Chamber of Commerce, and I was very much struck by the Commission; and I was then able to confirm the information I had received about the retail trade in broken chests, viz. that it was about 75 per cent. of the total quantity of opium sold, and that the draft of ordinance was then shown to me and in which retail sales through the Opium Farmer was allowed. I, however, made a suggestion that the Opium Farmer should not be permitted to sell in broken chests, and I think that I am now glad to see, has been adopted in place of the 6th of the amended Ordinance. Sir, with those modifications referred to I have no doubt the Bill will meet with the approval of all parties concerned.

THE ACTING CHIEF-JUSTICE.—With your Excellency's permission I should like to say a few words with regard to this Bill. I understand this is the continued debate of the second reading—that the debate was simply adjourned with view of seeing whether certain propositions (the hon. member (Hon. C. P. O'Heater) had) made by the Council were to be accepted by the Executive Government and Her Majesty's Government. In the memorandum which was placed before the Council by the Acting Governor (Mr. Marsh) when the Bill was laid on the table, it is pointed out that all that is in issue Hongkong Convention, agreed to do, in connection with the Commission, was to undertake that the Government of Hongkong should submit to this Council

ciple of that Bill as laid before the Council, which was prepared by myself, but procured with the thorough knowledge and assistance of the Chinese Government. I have now received my draft of it—I was acting all along under the immediate instructions of the Government as well as written instructions—the principle that Bill, I say, was the complete control of opium in the Colony. The Commission, when first met, I ascertain prepared to put forward by the Chinese Government as to how smuggling in China was to be prevented. With regard to the smuggling of opium, the Chinese Government had been frequently asked by the Hongkong Government had nothing to do with it, because this was a free port and, smug-

gins a misnomer. But with reference to opium we found that smuggling was possible in any respect, even within the Colony, and that the opium which was smuggled into the Colony from the Continent, the opium which came in re-circulated freely, and large quantities were taken to the other side of the border, and sold and re-pared there, and even brought back to the Colony, and sold there, and the revenue was derived from the same source. Now, the only plan submitted by Sir Robert Hart and Shiao Tsoai, his colleague, was one which this Government could not accept and which was certainly not a plan which would have satisfied the Chinese. That plan was the collection, by force of law, of Chinese revenue within the jurisdiction of Hongkong. Shortly before the proposal was that three Chinese-owned lighters should be placed at the disposal of the Government, and that the ships, of whatever nationality, coming in to the harbour should proceed alongside one of the other of these bulks and there discharge all opium which was to go to the south coast, and that the Chinese Government should send letters from the bulks stating the quantity and board and deliver that letter and opium to

it was consumed in the Colony or to undergo the process of preparation before shipment to British Colonies, the United States or elsewhere. In other words, China

posed we should bring in an Ordinance providing that a product of India containing opium should be sold in the form of a gift of China. That of course could not be accepted. There was a modification then proposed by Sir Robert Hart which was that we should first allow them to collect the revenue on all opium sold in the Colony and then that the opium should end up in returns, showing how much it had been consumed in the Colony and how much had been exported elsewhere, in which case he was to be paid a certain percentage of the revenue on that quantity. That we could not agree to. No other plan being forthcoming, as Sir Robert Hart himself stated in a memorandum he placed on the table on 15th July, I submitted a plan which was accepted by the Government. That plan was based on the principle of taking note of and registering every chest of opium that came into the Colony and every chest that went out of the Colony. The Government then proceeded to making inquiries with the details of the opium trade, and I had as my own friend (Hoe. C. P. Chater) has since ascertained through him certain information for the

that Hongkong duty was shipped by them by steam and of Malwa 90 per cent. was shipped steamers. Consequently the 35,000 chests optimum put forward as the retail trade relied on in Hongkong had to be reduced to 55 per cent. of Hongkong and 81 per cent. of Malwa, as this was shipped by Chinese. A great deal was made before this Council, and the Chamber of Commerce was led to think that that enormous retail trade of 35,000 chests of opium was going to be profitable to keep up Sir Robert Hart's returns. I have here one of the returns. The report for 1882, after giving the net importation in each port states:-

The goods imported and the estimated values shown in the table below. All the opium imported into China reaches it through Hongkong. As

amount brought into China in native vessels, which consequently does not appear in these returns must be nearly equal to the quantity by which Hongkong importation exceeds the entries at the Treaty ports. A deduction must be made for amount shipped to the United States for the opium there.

It then gives these amounts. The total amount that came into Hongkong in 1856 was 85,583 piculs. The total quantity in Hongkong, that is to say the quantity that did not pass through his hands, amounted to 19,856. Now, everybody knows that Beasdale's opium weighs 1½ piculs per chest, so there-

been shown by statistics supplied by the Secretary of the Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steam

boat Company that in 1885, 9,145 chests were  
sent to Yucco. That, therefore must have  
been the total trade in opium at that time.  
be retained in Hongkong, also what was ship-  
ped to Manila, Tongkin, America, and other  
ports. That there was a retail trade was undoubt-  
ed and I pointed out the commission it  
involved. It was possibly could be devised  
in some way by which this retail trade should  
be served in the Colony. There had been nothing  
but the obvious black plan put forward, and  
the Government had been too stupid to see  
Smuggling Commission of 1883, China had  
grivance against this Colony, as this Colony  
had against China, and that we ought to  
take steps to remove the cause of our grievance  
to ourselves. Was that possible?  
It seemed to me it was. The Government had  
in 1879 had a memorial sent in to it by the  
Chinese Government, asking for the abolition  
of the trade in opium, and that to en-  
force the prohibition of opium.

no Opium should be sold, unless he had the complete monopoly of sale of quantity less than one chest, and an offer was made that if this were not the case, the Government should be allowed to buy the rest of the farm. And why? Because, he said, if he had complete control of the trade in bringing in chests, he would increase his price, smuggling them outside world case, and do this in a difficulty way. If the Government had attempted to do anything like the restriction on the opium trade here, it would have sent a large portion of it to Mexico. In fact, the opium farmer who came to the foreign market instead of paying the Government \$210,000 a year of before, they offered \$182,000. The Government then took the matter into its own hands and began to get the opium farmer to pay the Government for the Opium Ordinance of 1858. The increased revenue was not so considerable. Under the management of Seth, who worked the matter with great care, it was found that the Government was getting about 100,000 dollars above what they had been offered of before. But there was an objection raised. It is a fact that the home Government saw the connection between the close relation between the Government and the opium farmer, and the Government was surprised at its preparation, and the home Government preferred that the matter should be in the hands of a farmer if possible. It happened very much as at that time, to be Colonial times, and the Government was not prepared to give the Government permission to grant licenses to the sale of new opium as is proposed now. The Government was a certain sum to be derived from the

ing trade and they saw no objection to it in the first instance, but very soon some of the Chinese dealers, some of whom profited largely by smuggling, raised a trouble and the Government did not proceed with the Bill. There was nothing done and Macnagrain stood in the way. Quite recently, present Opium Farmer has also been asking the Government for complete control over the trade in opium, and the Government have not yet decided. The Bill was published in April of last year before the Commission sat. It was proposed in the Bill that no one should sell opium in quantities of less than one chest except the Opium Farmer and his licensees, and it was arranged no licensee should pay any fee for license unless the Governor in Council otherwise ordered. This came out rather important in

[illegible]

misunderstanding occurred here the other says the *Hiogo News*, which resulted in a tremble and vexation of spirit to the local authorities. The Russian war vessel that came on Yokohama fired a salute, but this intentional country not being returned an imitation was forthwith demanded. Whatever or came seems to have been unsatisfactory, the telegraph was then brought into requisition and the twigs in Tokyo acquainted with horrible outrage. The *Hiogo* is worthy

no authors of "The Mikado," for the *Kongu* who left Kobe for Tsushima a few days ago, has been ordered back to Kobe to rectify omission, and His Imperial Majesty's manner is quietly awaiting the ceremony. Perhaps a little talk had been used the incident that have arranged itself without so much apology being necessary. For instance, if the *Princess Little Maiden From School* had waited for the Russian commander and sang from the

Chinese were visible, and a few disseminate  
were wandering amongst the ruins of the  
city. The purpose of this expedition was  
Spanish attack was completely successful.  
though the Moros succeeded in inflicting heavy  
losses both in officers and men. The  
entire success of the Governor  
Sala's attack was due to his superior  
order. The Sinu Chiefs in categorical  
refusal to aid the Spanish men-of-war  
and boats to stimulate an attack by sea; the Moros  
into the trap and immediately proposed to  
submit a grove of trees to the Spanish as a  
sign of agreement. The Spanish, however,  
from the fleet. In the meantime the  
advance of Sala was marching overland from  
the heart of 300 troops, and took the  
city by surprise. The Moros, however,  
decidedly made the best of a bad job, but they  
were not out-manoeuvred. Their positions were  
sacred, and all their artillery, arms, and ammuni-  
tion, and the majority of their women and  
children, into the hands of the Spaniard. The Sultan  
Sala escaped to the hills with the remainder  
of his army, but a few days later he was  
seen by the Spaniards in the possession of  
one of his splendid collection of pearls.  
The Sultan may have succeeded in escaping  
off with him, but it is a possibility that  
after firing

totally destroying the town, marched back to Tientsin. The *North Borneo Herald* says a large number of Chinese have been driven from their homes and have arrived at Sanakian. They have lost all beyond their houses.

tion, a supply of cocoons from ten to fifteen carats, even in excess of that year's crop may be secured. Shantung, the principal source of silk, exports some forty thousand bales, plus the stock, which will be available for export during the next season. Shantung is the home of some of one of the leading merchants of our continent, we read: "It will be of great attention to the increasing importance of this direction as the evidence of encouragement given by a Government. Large tracts of land are being brought under cultivation, and silk and reeling establishments increase year by year. In every little town and village are to be seen Government notifications of encouragement. The directors of great works to cultivate silk, and greater care in reeling. Under such auspices Japan, at so very distant date, will reap the most important of the fruits of the new era. The Government will, with skill and care, guarantee a quality second to none, and the cheapness of labour will defy competition as to price."

**THE TELEGRAPH BETWEEN CHINA AND EUROPE.**

The *N. C. Daily News* says:—"Unless the representatives of the Eastern Extension and the Great Northern Telegraph Companies, who are here for the purpose of discussing this subject, have succeeded in persuading the Viceroy Li to join them in keeping up the rates for telegrams to Europe, the news that they have been determined to connect Peking by a line with Kiao-ku, is a serious blow to the cable companies. Under all circumstances, the new line will be a serious competitor of submarine cables; and the existing Russian service is so low, that the Chinese service will be easily able to take our messages to Europe. It will cut off the half of the traffic of the cable companies. With this line across Mongolia, which will be easily and quickly constructed, and to junction with the line already laid by the Chinese in Fungkin and thence through Amoy and Burma, we shall soon have four lines to Europe, all separately owned, and a considerable reduction in rates must come before long."

[illegible][illegible]

The man is about 28 years of age, and the woman over 40.

No. 9171 號一十七百一千九第 日四初月四閏年三十緒光 HONGKONG, THUR. DAY, MAY 26TH, 1887. 四年禮 號六十二月五英港香 [PRICE \$2 PER MONTH]

SHIPPING.	INTIMATIONS.	BANKS.	NOTICES TO CONSIGNEES.	AUCTIONS.	NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.	NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.
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## NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES  
MARITIMES.  
PAQUEBOTS POSTE FRANCAIS.  
THE Company's Steamship  
"TANAIS"  
Captain Paul, will be despatched for  
Kobe and Yokohawa  
TO-DAY, the 26th inst, at Four P.M.  
G. DE CHAMPEAUX,  
Agent.  
Hongkong, 25th May, 1887. [2]

NOTICE.  
COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES  
MARITIMES.  
PAQUEBOTS POSTE FRANCAIS.  
THE Company's Steamer  
"OCEANEN."  
Commandant Didier, will be despatched for  
SHANGHAI,  
TO-DAY, the 26th inst, at FIVE P.M.  
G. DE CHAMPEAUX,  
Agent.  
Hongkong, 25th May, 1887. [2]

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY.  
LIMITED.  
FOR SWATOW, ANJOI, AND TANSUI.  
THE Company's Steamship  
"HAILOONG."  
Captain Hall, will be despatched for the above  
ports TO-MORROW, the 27th inst, at Noon  
For Freight or Passage, apply to  
DOUGLAS LAPIRIK & Co.,  
General Manager.  
Hongkong, 24th May, 1887. [43]

FOR SWATOW, SINGAPORE, AND  
BANGKOK.  
THE SCOTTISH ORIENTAL STEAM-  
SHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.  
THE Company's Steamer  
"PHRA CHULA OTOM KLAO."  
Captain A. Benson, will be despatched for the  
above Ports TO-MORROW, the 27th inst, at  
Noon  
For Freight or Passage, apply to  
YUEN FAT HONG,  
Agents.  
Hongkong, 25th May, 1887. [104d]

FOR BANGKOK DIRECT.  
THE SCOTTISH ORIENTAL STEAM-  
SHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.  
THE Company's Steamer  
"PHRA CHON KLAO."  
Captain W. H. Watson, will be despatched for  
the above Port TO-MORROW, the 27th inst,  
at THREE P.M.  
For Freight or Passage, apply to  
YUEN FAT HONG,  
Agents.  
Hongkong, 25th May, 1887. [104f]

STEAM TO SINGAPORE AND  
PENANG.  
THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamship  
"LORDALBY."  
will leave for the above places TO-MORROW

E. L. WOODIN.  
Agent, Superintendent.

Hongkong, 25th May, 1887. 1045

**INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.**

**FOR SWATOW, CHEFOO, AND TIENTSIN.**

**THE Company's Steamship**

"PECHILI,"

Captain Bradley, will be despatched as above on SATURDAY, the 28th inst, at Noon.

For Freight or Passage, apply to  
JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,  
General Managers.

Hongkong, 25th May, 1887. 11027

**FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG, AND CALCUTTA.**

**THE Steamship**

"JAPAN,"

Captain T. S. Gardner, will be despatched for the above Ports on SATURDAY, the 28th inst, at THREE.

For Freight or Passage, apply to  
DAVID SASSON, SONS & Co.,  
Agents.

Hongkong, 25th May, 1887. 11048

**THE CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.**

**FOR MANILA VIA AMOY.**

**THE Company's Steamship**

"DIAMANTE,"

Captain McCallin, will be despatched for the above Ports on SATURDAY, the 28th inst, at FOUR P.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to  
RUSSELL & Co.,  
General Managers.

Hongkong, 26th May, 1887. 11061

U. S. MAIL LINE

**PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.**

**THROUGH TO NEW YORK VIA OVERLAND RAILWAYS, AND THROUGH YOKOHAMA AND SAN FRANCISCO.**

**THE U. S. Mail Steamship "ALBA" OF SYDNEY,"** will be despatched for San Francisco, via Yokohama, on SATURDAY, the 11th June, at THREE P.M., taking Passengers and Freight for Japan, the United States, and Europe.

Through Bills of Lading issued for transportation to Yokohama and other Japan Ports, to San Francisco, Atlantic and Inland Cities of the United States, via Overland Railways, to Havana, Trinidad, and American Ports, and to ports

RETURN PASSAGERS.—Passengers, who have paid full fare, re-embarking at San Francisco from China or Japan (or vice versa) within six months, will be allowed a discount of 50 % from the Return Fare. If re-embarking within one year, an allowance of 10 % will be made from Return Fare. Pre-paid Return Passage Orders, available for one year, will be issued at a Discount of 25 % from the Return Fare. These allowances do not apply to through fares from China and Japan to Europe.

Freight will be received on board until 4 P.M. on the day previous to sailing. Parcel Postage will be received at the Office and 5 P.M. same day as Steam Packages should be packed to address in full: value of same is required.

Consular Entries to accompany Cargo destined to Ports beyond San Francisco should be sent to the Company's Offices addressed to the Collector of Customs at San Francisco.

For further information as to Passage and Freight, apply to the Agency of the Company, No. 504, Queen's Road Central.

HONGKONG, 26th May, 1887. 13

TO LET.

ROOMS IN "COLLEGE CHAMBERS,"  
No. 4, STYMOUR TERRACE,  
No. 16, HOLLWOOD ROAD.  
Apply to  
DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.,  
Hongkong, 30th July, 1886. 145





